



Selena's Story

"Together we can all do more."

My name is Selena. Home for me was once Bosnia and Herzegovina. The bloody aggression and genocide inflicted upon Bosnia in the 1990s, however, forced my family and me to run to save our lives. America opened its doors and welcomed us to its shores.

Even though it has been 20 years since LIRS helped my family and me resettle, I still remember the days when I was a 12-year-old girl without a voice loud enough to be heard. Like many Americans, I have been following the recent refugee crisis very closely. In 2016, I saw the pictures of those children who struggled on the shores in Europe. In early 2017, I read stories of difficult journeys in both Europe and the United States.

These situations are close to home for me because I was once there. I thank America every day for not turning its back on my family and me, but I am most thankful to America for letting me into its land and saving me. I am a person of action, and after watching these news reports I asked myself, "What needs to be done? How can I help?"

I pray that you will join me because together, I know, we can all do more. Follow the links below to learn how.

CELEBRATE WELCOME at LIRS.org/Refugee-Sunday
DONATE to the ongoing work of resettlement at LIRS.org/Donate
SIGN UP for "Stand for Welcome" alerts at LIRS.org/Advocate



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LITANY FOR REFUGEES

Leader: Mighty Lord, as you guided the Israelites, through the wilderness,

People: be a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day for refugees in search of new hope and new life.

Leader: As you brought the Israelites out of bondage to freedom,

People: bring refugees out of persecution to safety.

Leader: As you protected the Israelites through 40 years in the desert,

People: protect those who languish for years in refugee camps.

Leaders: Wipe away their tears of sorrow,

People: that their mourning may give way to joyous hope.

Leader: Put an end to warfare and tyranny,

People: that some may return home without fear of violence.

Leader: Open the doors of safer nations,

People: that some may find new homes in new lands.

Leader: Rebuild their lives,

People: that they might enjoy the fruit of labors in peace.

Leader: Restore their material goods,

People: that they might sustain their families in prosperity.

Leader: Revive their hope,

People: that they might face a future with promise.

Leader: Shine your grace upon them,

People: that they might know your love

Leader: Strengthen their bonds of friendship and family,

People: that they might serve one another with encouraging love.

Leader: And inspire your churches to welcome the stranger,

People: that together we might build communities of hope where strangers become neighbors and friends, and brothers and sisters.

Amen.

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